#### NOT FOR PUBLICATION

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

FRANCISCO MIR PUERTA, :

Civil Action No. 07-1689 (FSH)

Petitioner, :

v. : OPINION

MICHAEL CHERTOFF, et al., :

Respondents. :

#### APPEARANCES:

Petitioner <u>pro</u> <u>se</u>
Francisco Mir Puerta
Middlesex Adult Correction Center
P.O. Box 266
New Brunswick, NJ 08903

## HOCHBERG, District Judge

Petitioner Francisco Mir Puerta, an alien confined at Middlesex County Adult Correction Center while awaiting removal, has submitted a petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241.¹ Petitioner seeks leave to proceed <u>in forma pauperis</u> pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915.² The respondents are

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Section 2241 provides in relevant part:

<sup>(</sup>a) Writs of habeas corpus may be granted by the Supreme Court, any justice thereof, the district courts and any circuit judge within their respective jurisdictions.

<sup>(</sup>c) The writ of habeas corpus shall not extend to a prisoner unless-- ... (3) He is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States ....

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  Petitioner will be granted leave to proceed  $\underline{\text{in}}$   $\underline{\text{forma}}$  pauperis.

Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, and Warden Edmond Cicchi.

### I. BACKGROUND

According to the allegations of the Petition, Petitioner is a citizen of Cuba. Petitioner has been subject to a final order of removal since February 6, 2007. He has been in the custody of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("BICE") since January 18, 2007, following his release from state prison after serving a term of imprisonment for a drug conviction.

Petitioner filed this Petition alleging that his indefinite detention in lieu of removal violates his constitutional and statutory rights. He contends that his removal to Cuba is not reasonably foreseeable because Cuba does not accept deported criminal aliens.

## II. STANDARDS FOR A SUA SPONTE DISMISSAL

United States Code Title 28, Section 2243 provides in relevant part as follows:

A court, justice or judge entertaining an application for a writ of habeas corpus shall forthwith award the writ or issue an order directing the respondent to show cause why the writ should not be granted, unless it appears from the application that the applicant or person detained is not entitled thereto.

A pro se pleading is held to less stringent standards than more formal pleadings drafted by lawyers. <u>Estelle v. Gamble</u>, 429 U.S. 97, 106 (1976); <u>Haines v. Kerner</u>, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972).

A pro se habeas petition and any supporting submissions must be construed liberally and with a measure of tolerance. See Royce v. Hahn, 151 F.3d 116, 118 (3d Cir. 1998); Lewis v. Attorney General, 878 F.2d 714, 721-22 (3d Cir. 1989); United States v. Brierley, 414 F.2d 552, 555 (3d Cir. 1969), cert. denied, 399 U.S. 912 (1970). Nevertheless, a federal district court can dismiss a habeas corpus petition if it appears from the face of the petition that the petitioner is not entitled to relief. See Lonchar v. Thomas, 517 U.S. 314, 320 (1996); Siers v. Ryan, 773 F.2d 37, 45 (3d Cir. 1985), cert. denied, 490 U.S. 1025 (1989). See also 28 U.S.C. §§ 2243, 2255.

### III. ANALYSIS

Post-removal-order detention is governed by 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a). Section 1231(a)(1) requires the Attorney General to attempt to effectuate removal within a 90-day "removal period."

The removal period begins on the latest of the following:

- (i) The date the order of removal becomes administratively final.
- (ii) If the removal order is judicially reviewed and if a court orders a stay of the removal of the alien, the date of the court's final order.
- (iii) If the alien is detained or confined (except under an immigration process), the date the alien is released from detention or confinement.

## 8 U.S.C. $\S$ 1231(a)(1)(B).

Section 1231(a)(6) permits continued detention if removal is not effected within 90 days. However, the Supreme Court has held

that such post-removal-order detention is subject to a temporal reasonableness standard. Specifically, once a presumptively-reasonable six-month period of post-removal-order detention has passed, a resident alien must be released if he can establish that his removal is not reasonably foreseeable. See Zadvydas v. Davis, 533 U.S. 678 (2001); Clark v. Martinez, 543 U.S. 371 (2005).

Here, Petitioner pleads that although he was taken into custody by immigration authorities on January 18, 2007, his final order of removal was issued on February 6, 2007. Thus, his post-removal-order custody commenced on that date. See, e.g., 28 U.S.C. § 1231(a) (1) (B) (iii); Gregory v. B.I.C.E./D.H.S., Civil Action No. 06-4008 (SDW), 2007 WL 708856 (March 6, 2007) (removal period begins anew upon the happening of any of the events described in § 1231(a) (1) (B)); Michel v. INS, 119 F. Supp.2d 485, 498 (M.D. Pa. 2000) (same). The Petition is dated April 7, 2007, and was received by this Court on April 10, 2007.

Accordingly, it is apparent from the face of the Petition that the six-month presumptively reasonable removal period has not yet elapsed and Petitioner is not entitled to the relief requested.

## IV. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

For the reasons set forth above, the Petition will be dismissed, without prejudice to Petitioner's bringing a new

Petition after the presumptively-reasonable period of detention

has passed, should circumstances warrant. An appropriate order

follows.

/s/ Faith S. Hochberg
United States District Judge

Dated: May 9, 2007

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